

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

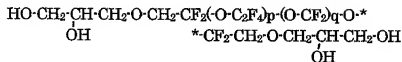
1. - 15. (cancel).

16. (new): A method of producing a lubricant used to form a lubricating layer on a magnetic disk, comprising:

preparing a crude lubricant which includes at least a perfluoropolyether compound;
degassing an impurity gas from the crude lubricant in a reduced pressure;
after the degassing, vaporizing a degassed lubricant into a vaporized lubricant; and
purifying the vaporized lubricant into the lubricant by liquefying the perfluoropolyether molecules of the vaporized lubricant within a distance less than a mean free path of the perfluoropolyether molecules.

17. (new): The method according to claim 16, wherein the perfluoropolyether compound is specified by a compound which has a hydroxyl group as an end group.

18. (new): The method according to claim 17, wherein the lubricant includes at least one compound represented by the following formula:



19. (new): A lubricant for use in manufacturing a magnetic disk, comprising:

as a main component, a perfluoropolyether compound which is not smaller than 85% when the lubricant is measured by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

20. (new): The lubricant according to claim 19, wherein a molecular weight distribution is not smaller than 1.0 and is not greater than 1.3 while a weight-average molecular weight falls within a range between 4000 and 8000.

21. (new): A magnet disk comprising at least a magnetic layer, a protective layer, and a lubricant layer which are formed on a substrate, wherein:

the lubricant comprises, as a main component, a perfluoropolyether compound which is not smaller than 85% when the lubricant is measured by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy; and

wherein:

a molecular weight distribution is not smaller than 1.0 and is not greater than 1.3 while a weight-average molecular weight falls within a range between 4000 and 8000; and

wherein the lubricant is formed by a dip coating.

22. (new): The magnetic disk according to claim 21, installed in a magnetic disk drive of a load/unload type.

23. (new): The magnetic disk according to claim 22, installed in the magnetic disk drive which comprises a magnetic head including a negative pressure slider.

24. (new): The lubricant according to claim 19, wherein the perfluoropolyether compound is specified by perfluorotetraol compound of which a content falls within a range between 90 % and 95%.